

(d) the legal sanctity behind the running of the petrol pumps and LPG dealerships on the Power of Attorney basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The year-wise number of retail outlet (RO) dealerships and LPG distributorships allotted to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and April to July, 2000 is given below:—

Year	No. of RO Dealerships allotted to SCs/STs	No. of LPG distributorships allotted to SCs/STs
1997-98	5	10
1998-99	45	48
1999-2000	58	117
April-July, 2000	—	3

The Government have not conducted any such survey.

As per the provision of the Dealership Agreement between the oil companies and the dealers/distributors, the operation of dealerships/distributorships on power of attorney basis is not permitted.

Inquiry report on fire accident at HPCL, Visakh refinery

2413. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the report of the Justice S.C. Jain Commission of Inquiry on fire incident at HPCL, Visakh Refinery on 14th September, 1997 five lapses were identified;

(b) whether action was taken on only one lapse on the part of two operators;

(c) whether no action was taken on other lapses identified by the Commission;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the action taken on each identified lapse of HPCL management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government had reviewed in detail the observations on lapses contained in the report of the Commission Inquiry. The observation of the Commission on the part of the operators was accepted by the Government and HPCL has initiated departmental proceedings as per the Company Rules. Other observations of the Commission were examined in detail and these were not accepted as these were not found to be justified.

Reimbursement from oil pool account to oil marketing companies

2414. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 4222 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th May, 2000 and state:

(a) the estimated amount in crores to be reimbursed to oil marketing companies from oil pool account against CST under recoveries on account of intercompany sales of controlled petroleum products of RPL; and

(b) the modalities of making up the oil pool deficit caused by above disbursement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The amount to be reimbursed to oil marketing companies from the Oil Pool Account against central sales tax under-recoveries on account of inter-company sales of controlled petroleum products of M/s RPL would depend on the quantities of controlled petroleum products' offtake from RPL's Jamnagar Refinery for sale in others States.

The amount reimbursed to oil marketing companies for their